

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 20, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van de Mortel et al. (hereinafter "Van de Mortel") in view of Chiu et al. (hereinafter "Chiu") and further in view of Saegusa et al. (hereinafter "Saegusa").

In accordance with the agreement reached between the Examiner and the Applicants' representative, namely Mr. Gaspare Randazzo (Reg. No. 41,528), in a telephone interview conducted on August 6, 2004, Claims 1, 8, and 9 have been amended to now recite, *inter alia*, "a unique handset security code based on but not the same as a unique handset serial number". As noted in an Interview Summary for the above mentioned telephone interview, a copy of which is attached hereto, the above amendments do not raise new issues and will be entered by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 8, and 9 are patentably distinct and nonobvious over the cited references.

Claims 2-7 and 10 depend from Claim 1 or a claim which itself is dependent from Claim 1 and, thus, contain all the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 11 and 12 depend from Claims 8 and 9, respectively, and, thus, contain all the limitations of Claims 8 and 9, respectively. Accordingly, Claims 2-7 and 10 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 1, and Claims 11 and 12 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claims 8 and 9, respectively.

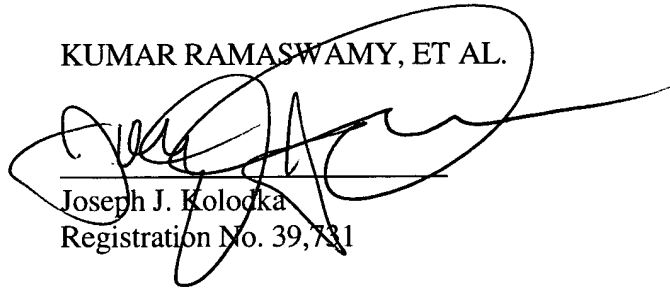
Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims set forth in the Office Action of May 20, 2004 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-12 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's Deposit Account No.07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

KUMAR RAMASWAMY, ET AL.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Joseph J. Kolodka", is written over the printed name and registration number.

Joseph J. Kolodka
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